

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231**

Appl No.: **10/743,178**
Applicant: **Cheng, Li-Ming et al.**
Filing Date: **12/23/2003**
Art Unit: **3634**
Examiner: **Johnson, Blair M.**
Attorney Docket No.: **21406-001**

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Dear Sir:

The applicant thanks Examiner Johnson for the telephone interview conducted on November 28, 2006. The applicant hereby files written statement of the reasons presented at the November 28, 2006 telephone interview as warranting favorable action.

Those present at the telephone interview were Primary Examiner Blair M. Johnson and applicant's attorney Anthony S. King.

Gertzon ('637 patent) and Kuhar ('100 patent) were discussed in detail. Particularly, Mr. King pointed out that Kuhar specifically teaches in lines 3-10, col. 2 of the specification that it is desirable to have a simple design having few component parts. While Gertzon illustrates a typical Venetian blind with pulley and manual pull cord, and Kuhar shows a counterbalancing mechanism for cordless operation, there is no teaching to combine the two. Any combination of the two would have destroyed the device that was taught in the Kuhar and Gertzon. Again, Kuhar specifically teaches against such complex combination. Examiner Johnson found this argument to be of particular interest and agreed to look into this issue further.

Mr. King also pointed out that while hindsight illustrates the advantage of using a pulley system in combination with a counterbalancing mechanism, there is absolutely no teaching in the prior art for such combination. A pulley system is typically associated with supplementing manual pulling in a typical Venetian blind system as in Gertzon. When Kuhar introduced its device having no manual pull cord, there was no teaching to retain a pulley system in its cordless blind. Again, Kuhar teaches away from retaining such a pulley system.

Moreover, Mr. King briefly presented objective evidence of nonobviousness, namely, commercial success, long felt need, failure of others, copying of others, and current Canadian litigation relating to the applicant's cordless design. Mr. King has referred Examiner Johnson to the Remarks section in the RCE filed 11/13/2006 for more detailed discussion of the objective evidence of nonobviousness.

Having recently visited the applicant and his research facility in Taiwan, Mr. King also shared with Examiner Johnson of what he learned during his visit of how the applicant's inventive subject matter was invented, developed, and how this single invention allowed the relatively small Taiwanese company to enter into the N. America market for the first time, and as a result acquired large North America market share. Mr. King also briefly mentioned how the applicant's commercial success was very quickly stymied by competitors' copycat products in the market place.

In conclusion, Mr. King argued that the overall combination of having a pulley system and a counterbalancing mechanism as disclosed by the applicant is novel and nonobvious.

Claims presented on RCE are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Claims Presented on RCE

Listing of Claims:

1-49. (Canceled)

50. (New) A collapsible window covering capable of height adjustments, comprising:

an upper elongated support having a longitudinally extending channel;

a collapsible member coupled to said upper elongated support;

a lower elongated member coupled to said collapsible member;

a first primary line coupled to said lower elongated member and extends through a length of said collapsible member;

a secondary line coupled to said first primary line and to a counterbalancing mechanism;

a pulley assembly having at least two rotors wherein said first primary line is entrained about said at least two rotors; and

wherein said counterbalancing mechanism is disposed within said longitudinally extending channel and has a spring coupled to a first rotary member thereby urging said first rotary member to rotate in a first direction to wind and store said secondary line onto said first rotary member.

51. (New) The collapsible window covering of claim 50, wherein said pulley assembly is disposed within said longitudinally extending channel.

52. (New) The collapsible window covering of claim 51, wherein the at least two rotors in the pulley assembly is capable of supplementing a counterbalancing effect created by said counterbalancing mechanism, said at least two rotors of said pulley assembly further comprises receiving surfaces for entraining the first primary line, and

wherein an arrangement of the receiving surfaces and the number of rotors allows a portion of the first primary line to change its direction of travel at least once before exiting the longitudinally extending channel, when the lower elongated member is manually pulled in a downward direction to lower the height of the lower elongated member.

53. (New) The collapsible window covering of claim 52, wherein the arrangement of the receiving surfaces and the number of rotors allows a portion of the first primary line to change its direction of travel at least twice before exiting the longitudinally extending channel, when the lower elongated member is manually pulled in a downward direction when lowering the height of the lower elongated member.

54. (New) The collapsible window covering of claim 53, wherein the counterbalancing mechanism further includes a second rotary member capable of entraining said secondary line.

55. (New) The collapsible window covering of claim 54, wherein the spring is an S-shaped spring.

56. (New) The collapsible window covering of 55, wherein said secondary line is entrained about said first rotary member and said second rotary member in a criss-cross pattern to assist the spring in providing a counter balancing force.

57. (New) The collapsible window covering of claim 56 further comprising a second primary line coupled to said secondary line such that movement of said secondary line also moves said first and second primary line evenly, thereby keeping said bottom elongated member level.

58. (New) The collapsible window covering of claim 53, wherein rotation of said first rotary member in said first direction in the first rotary member are capable of entraining and pulling said secondary line in a distal direction, and in turn, evenly pulls the first primary line

59. (New) The collapsible window covering of claim 57, wherein the collapsible member includes pleated shade such as roman shades and honey comb shades.

60. (New) The collapsible window covering of claim 57, wherein the collapsible member includes shutter such as wooden shutter and Venetian blinds, and comprises a plurality of blind slats.

61. (New) The collapsible window covering of claim 58, wherein the counterbalancing mechanism is disposed at a terminal end in the longitudinally extending channel.

62. (New) A method of raising a collapsible window covering without using manually-pulling cords, said method comprising:

Providing a collapsible window covering comprising an upper elongated support having a longitudinally extending channel, a collapsible member coupled to said upper elongated support, a lower elongated member coupled to said collapsible covering, a least two primary lines coupled to said lower elongated member and extends through a length of said collapsible covering, a secondary line coupled to said at least two primary lines and to a counterbalancing mechanism, a pulley assembly having at least two rotors wherein said first primary line is entrained about said rotors, and wherein said counterbalancing mechanism is disposed within said longitudinally extending channel and has a spring coupled to a first rotary member thereby urging said first rotary member to rotate in a first direction to wind and store said secondary line onto said first rotary member;

manually lift the lower elongated member in an upward direction to allow said collapsible member to shorten in a longitudinal direction; and

wherein lifting the lower elongated member allows the at least two primary lines to move evenly without entangling with each other on the first rotary member.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the spring is an S-shaped spring.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein bouncing of the bottom elongated member is minimized by entraining the at least two primary lines about the at least two rotors of the pulley assembly, thereby increasing stability of the bottom elongated member and increasing precision in height position adjustment of the bottom elongated member.

65. (New) The collapsible window covering of claim 64, wherein the counterbalancing mechanism further includes a second rotary member capable of entraining said secondary line.

66. (New) The collapsible window covering of 65, wherein said secondary line is entrained about said first rotary member and said second rotary member in a criss-cross pattern to assist the spring in providing a counter balancing force.

Conclusion

The applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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